CHICAGO TIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE CHICAGO TI-99/4A USERS GROUP

ELECTIONS AT DEC.2 MEETING
SWAP MEET AT DEC MEETING
MERRY XMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

DEC 1989
EDITOR: Bob Demeter

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Group's BBS # 708 862-0182

Group's Hot Line 708 869-4304

Meeting Dates...

This month's meeting will be Saturday Dec. 2, 1989. We will have our annual ELECTIONS and swap meet. Bring your used equipment to sell and some cash to buy. Some good deals are always around.

This will also be our LAST meeting at the Legion in Hillside.

The January meeting will be at St. Nicolai Church 3002 N. Kedzie Chicago, Ill. This is on Kedzie near Belmont. I have not been informed, but, I think the meeting will be on Saturday 1/6/90. 1 to 3 pm.

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PRESIDENT SPEAKS...

This will be my last article, in this newsletter as the president of the group. It has been a most interesting and rewarding year; it has also been most a most tiring one. At the same time, I must admit that I have enjoyed every minute of it, but now it's time to say good-bye, at least as the president. Though I will be giving up this post, I will continue to remain active in our group; you will notice that I am running for the vice-president's position again. I will also continue to maintain the group's "hot-line" answering machine, and I will continue to coordinate the group's communications by forwarding correspondence to those persons who receive letters at our post office box. I will also respond to those persons who send us correspondence which is not directed to any particular person. And, yes, I shall continue to remain the group's resident problem solver. I therefore renew my offer to deal with any and all problems which are directly related to our group. You will be able to contact me at the "hot-line" number, on the group's bbs, on Hank Ellermann's bbs, or through our post office box address.
Regarding our "hot-line" and bbs numbers, please be aware that the area codes for both of these numbers is now "708" instead of "312."

In addition to the above mentioned activities, I will also continue to write my "Geneve Support Article," and I will continue to do this as long as I feel that there is both a need and an interest for such an article. I also hope to submit an article along the same line as my friend Dave Wakely's great "Spadventure" articles, but it will be devoted to "Legends" and "Legends II."

Before I leave, I would like to thank those former presidents of our group who were helpful, understanding, and supportive. I am speaking of Sandy Bartels, Hank Ellermann, Sam Pincus, and Dave Wakely. I am very appreciative of the help which they rendered me during my presidency. I thank Hank Ellermann for acting as my vice-president. I would also like to thank Sandy Bartels, Marcy Brun, and Christine Chambers for their fine work which made our Faire a total success. Special thanks to Oscar Bretana, Laura Heiberger, Jan Janowski, to Len and Laurie Rovner, and to the Shanafield family for their work at this years Faire. I would also like to thank Lionel and Jeanette Bordelon for their work with our library and to Mike Maksimik for his work as the group's SysOp. I also thank the many members who volunteered either their help and/or their systems for use a the Faire. I also wish to thank Bob Demeter for his work with our newsletter and Jim Brooks for his heavy sacrifices as our membership chairman. And last but not least, I wish to thank the whole executive board for its constant help and support. Without the support of this fine group of people, I could not have survived.

Well, I guess that that is mostly it, but there are just a few other things that I would like to mention:

If anyone received a copy of the latest Myarc product addendum sheet at,

our Faire, please send me a copy so that I can have more copies made for the rest of the Myarc products owners in our group.

Next month, I will submit a short article detailing the reasons why we shall no longer meet at the Broadview American Legion Hall in Hillside, Illinois after our December meeting. Our January meeting will be held at the Saint Nicolai Church on 3002 North Kedzie, in Chicago, Illinois. The church is only two blocks south of the Belmont exit of the Kennedy Expressway. It is really well placed and easy to get to, and its small rooms will allow us to re-institute our S.I.G.'s again.

I would also like to request that all of the members of our group write to Computer Shopper Magazine. (C/O Coastal Associates Publishing, L.P. One Park Ave. New York, NY 10016) I am asking you to write to let them know that we do miss their article on the 4A. If we don't we may very well lose access to an excellent source of information in the larger computer community.

If you haven't invested in either our users' group's TI Hardware Projects Manual or our TI Writer Supplement Manual, you should really consider doing this. At $10.00 and $9.00 (postage included) respectively, they are real bargains.

Also, please don't forget to renew your memberships ($21.00 by mail). Please renew now and avoid the last minute rush.

Ernie Pergrem is the only person running for president. He is a fine person, and I will fully support him in this post, as I am confident that he will be another fine president for our group.

Well, I guess that that's it. Thanks for your support. It has been a pleasure to serve you, and I leave all of you with all of the blessings that I have to offer.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Jones
President
Chicago TI Users' Group

endit

EQUIPMENT DONORS...

According to our records, the following individuals donated equipment for use at our seventh annual TI Faire:

Jon Bartels, Marcy Brun, Geary Dodendorf, Ed Gardner, Mark Harms, Laura

Heiberger, Jan Joel Janowski, Don Jones, Kenneth Knapp, Bernie Kucharski, George Lempeotis, Matt Mullen, Ernie Pergrem, David A Connery, Mike Polonsky, Aurelius Raines, Hal Shanafield, Don Walden, and Tony Zlotorzynski.

If you have made an equipment donation and you were not listed, please contact me on the group's "hot-line" answering machine.

Don Jones

endit

TRADIN' TIMES

Randy Davenport has a system for sale. It includes the following: a.) TI-99/4A console, b.) speech synthesizer, c.) P.E.B., 1 full height SS/SD disk drive, d.) 1 TI FDC, e.) 1 TI 32K memory card, f.) numerous cartridges with original manuals. He will take the BEST OFFER. He prefers to sell as a complete package, but he will separate parts if necessary. His address is 1823 East Calver Street, South Bend, Indiana 46613. His phone number is (219)232-1873. Call this man and make him an offer!!!

Al ("The Magnificent Stumper") Stump still has one 256K Horizon RAM disk left. He is asking $180.00 for it. If you are interested in it, please leave a message regarding it on the group's hot-line. Al will get back to you.

Ted Thomas has a system for sale, and he is willing to negotiate the price. His system contains two 4A consoles, a P.E.B., 2 SS/SD disk drives, a TI FDC, a TI 32K memory expansion card, a CorComp RS232, a speech synthesizer, a tape cassette player, a modem, Extended BASIC, and various pieces of software. If you are interested, you can reach him at home at (312)463-4318 or at work at (312)987-4750. Call him and make him an offer!!!

If you want to buy or sell something, please drop a line to our newsletter. Your needs will be printed here...

MINUTES BY MARCY

Although there was no regular meeting in November because of the 7th Annual TI Faire & Convention, I feel that I must still portray the happening to those of you that were unable to attend the Faire. And I must say, that I am happy to do so, because it was a very successful and wonderful event.

The convention weekend actually began Thursday night when Sandy and Jon Bartels, Don Jones, and myself greeted our visitors from Europe who had arrived that day.

At 2:00 Friday, Hal Shanafeld had set-up and opened the Hospitality Suite for all Visitors to be greeted. Here, everyone enjoyed meeting persons they had conversed with on the many bulletin boards across the country. It was like a family reunion with everyone telling stories of what's going on in their part of the world. Members were going in and out of the Hospitality Suite all weekend at all hours. All were welcomed. Thank you Hal for doing such a good job with the refreshments and hosting.

Friday night there were approximately 102 people attending the Mixer. Everyone was conversing with each other while enjoying hot and cold hors d'oeuvres. One lucky member also won a Ram Disk Board in the raffle drawing.

Saturday morning started early, 6:00am in fact, with all the membership volunteers hurrying to help the exhibitors bring in their wares and making sure everything was in place. All things were proceeding on schedule with no one noticing the last minute problems which usually come up. We were ready for the crowd which had gathered awaiting the opening of the 7th Annual TI Faire at 9:00am. All booths were filled. There were a total of 30 companies manning 54 tables. The exhibitors were selling everything you could imagine for the 99/4a. If you couldn't find it there, it wasn't in circulation anymore. If you're looking for new hardware and programs that have just been released, it was there. This show is considered the show to premier anything that's new for the market.

The final count of all who were at this event was approximately 450.

Many of them left carrying one of the many donations given by the exhibitors for the door prize drawings. But just having attendees walking through the exhibit space is not enough for the Chicago Group. We want to give you as much TI as you can handle. Therefore, there was also a full day of very fine and interesting seminars scheduled for everyone to attend. And attend they did. The seminar room was full practically all day.

It's my understanding that some of the wives of our members were having

such a good time at the magnificent Woodfield Mall, that their husbands thought they had lost them to Chicago. All in all, everyone had a good time throughout the whole day. I did notice that there weren't too many kids at the hotel this year. I guess the men decided to treat their wives to a romantic weekend.

The Faire went well and was a big success. This success was celebrated at the Saturday Night Dinner. There were 90 people in attendance for this celebration. And by this time, I'm sure many of them had become close friends.

Sunday morning, at 6:00am, brought together the annual caravan of exhibitors and attendees to the Milwaukee Faire. Breakfast was served at a fine but not expensive restaurant on the tollway half way through the trip. The Chicago group delivered the exhibitors to their stations at the Milwaukee TI Faire just in time to set-up for the admittance of approximately 200 people.

I feel that the existence of the Milwaukee Faire in conjunction with the Chicago Faire makes this a very special total weekend event. The Chicago Faire has a lot to offer and is very professional. This makes it very busy and fast paced. You have a lot to see and you don't want to miss any of it. I have found that it is a very enjoyable pleasure to attend the Milwaukee Faire after having the hussle and bussle of the Chicago Faire. In Milwaukee you can slow down and enjoy talking to the exhibitors and programers in a more relaxed atmosphere. You can even see the programers getting together with each other conversing on new ideas they have for new equipment and programs. I would like you each to consider taking in the Milwaukee Faire also next year when you visit the Chicago Faire. Remember, you haven't had the total experience unless you participate in the whole weekend event.

I would like to give a special thank you to Dave Connery for his help to man our booth at the Milwaukee TI Faire. A big thank you goes out to all that helped put the 1989 TI Faire Convention together. The Co-Chairmen Sandy Bartels, Christine Chambers and I could not have done it all alone. You ALL did a great job.

Marcy Brun, Secretary

MEMBERSHIP NEWS AND VIEWS

by James Brooks

Greetings to all of the New and Renewed Members who signed up at our Faire last month. I am glad to see so many renewals that had skipped 1989 for whatever reason (They forgot to renew).

So to the Brand New Member, this is your first newsletter beginning your membership to the Chicago TI 99/4A Users' Group. Now all you have to do is to join in and become a part of the group. If you are a local resident and can make the meeting's, come out and see what is going on with the group. If you are an experienced programer, we welcome your talents most heartily. We do have some fine programers in the group (too many to name here today).

Now we are having a swap meet at our next meeting (the last one at the Hillside American Hall) on December 2nd, so bring your unused equipment to swap or sell. Also bring $CASH for the deals that may be just what you were looking for.

Now that the phone numbers for the suburbs have changed to the 708 area code, we too have a new number for the BBS. It is now (708)862-0182 for the CUG BBS
(708)453/7831 for the Chicago Connection
(708)455-3256 for Westdale
(312)651-7252 for Chicagos' TI South
(219)659-1245 for The Bit Bucket in Whiting,IN.

Don't forget to change your numbers on your dialers.

The Faire was great but now on to the programers contest. Full details were in the November issue of Chicago Times but are also on the CUG BBS.

Well see you at the swap meet on December 2nd and don't forget to bring your unused equipment and some $CASH.

TIME TO RENEW TIME TO RENEW TO RENEW

HELLO OUT THERE IN COMPUTER LAND .

* * PROGRAMING CONTEST 1990 * *

After a faire like that, WOW !
There ain't no words to say it all. IT WAS GREAT !
PLENTY OF STUFF ALL OVER THE PLACE. WONDERFUL PEOPLE. GOOD PRICES. LOADS OF NEW STUFF & PROGRAMS .
IF YOU DIDN'T MAKE IT THERE, WELL THERE IS ALWAYS NEXT YEAR .
I got lucky. I did make half of it. Sure wish that all of you could have been there.
NOW, What to look for in the times to come :
How about an E-PROM that will hold a V.C.R. MOVIE on it.
OR, What about a set of computers implanted in the eyes that will automatically adjust the eye-ball like the new camera do now. You know, autofocus eyeballs. No glasses. OR How about a new wrist watch with a computer built in it that has voice recognition built in it. OR, A printer that you can just talk to and it will do the rest.
Well, They're coming! How soon ? It's up to you.
You see, it won't just happen. There has to be some dreamer that starts it going. Some nut with an idea. Someone who will try to do that screwy thing that just won't work. The idea has to get started. It just takes

the time to go full cycle.
OK ! DO YOU GET THE IDEA ?
Get it started. Get off your duff and write something.
It just has to be your idea. Get it started and it will go on to become -------. WHATEVER !
Look at it this way. BARRY BOONE ; Where do you think we all would be if he only sat and watched ? That young man did a great job of programing. And I'll bet that most of it was fooling around too. It must have been fun.
How about REGINA ; Do you think any of that great programing was just loads of fun?
MILLER ? Who is that? Oh yes. MILLERS GRAFS . The last that I seen him , He was nothing but a very large grin. (some great stuff)
Lets go loco. FROGGY ; What, You never heard of him. Well, you don't hear about all of the programers. There is so many of the computer nuts that are doing it all for the fun of it. There ain't nothing like the feeling that you get when it is all done. It's like there goes my baby.
MORE ? RICH KLEIN , TODD KAPLAN , BERNIE KUCHARSKI , GEORGE LEMPEOTIS , BETTY O'MALLEY , ME , JAMES YOUNG , MARCY BRUN . WHO ? MARCY , DID YOU WRITE ANYTHING FOR THE PROGRAMING CONTEST ? WHAT ? OH MARCY ! GET GOING , WRITE SOMETHING NOW. WE NEED IT.
What are you laughing at ? We need your ideas too. They don't have to be great. The program that I put in last year was not that good. But I did get it in. You didn't. Mine is doing some good somewhere . I use it all the time. I would like to know if anybody finds a use for it. It is in the library now.
It's name is "TOY99" . And I have been playing with it for two years now. Got it up to toy99/7 now. Still is not all that I want it to be. There will be somebody that will take it and change it. It will become better then it is now.
I know that I'm no real programer. I'm just a nut that likes to play on my toy computer. It's just loads of fun. TRY IT ! YOU'LL LOVE IT

Well, That's about all I can do now. If you ain't going to play with it.
OH ! Almost forgot .
THE REVIEW ;
#1 program
IT'S FOR THE GENNY (9640). IT SEEMS TO BE A FILE VIEWER TO GO ALONG WITH YOUR TI-ARTIST PICTURES. I'M NOT SURE OF ALL IT CAN OR WILL DO. I'M GOING TO GIVE IT TO DON JONES TO RUN AND REVIEW IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER.
I DO KNOW THAT IT WILL DO MORE THAN THAT. BUT I DO NEED HELP TOO.

Well, All the rest you know.
DEADLINE , PRIZES , & WHO CAN GET IN THE CONTEST. WHAT KIND OF PROGRAMS ..
OK, SO SOME OF THE READERS MIGHT NOT KNOW IT ALL. I'LL PUT IN ALL THE STUFF AFTER THIS .
THANKS ALL,
TONY ZLOTORZYNSKI (programing contest chairperson (or whatever)).

all the rules and where to and prizes are next !

1990 PROGRAMING CONTEST .
FOR THE TEXAS INSTRUMENT TI99/4A HOME COMPUTER ,
AND ,
FOR THE MYARC GENEVE / 9640 .

Here is the run-down !
GOING ON NOW , Last entry accepted on 04-01-1990 .
JUDGED IN APRIL 1990 . WINNERS ANNOUNCED AT THE MAY,1990 CHICAGO'S USERS GROUP MEETING .

PRIZES WILL BE ;

FIRST PRIZE = $100.00

SECOND PRIZE = $75.00

THIRD PRIZE = $50.00

FOURTH to TENTH PRIZES WILL BE A COMPLETE COPY OF ALL ENTRIES ! (WOW !)

THINK ABOUT IT ! FOURTH to TENTH PRIZES WILL PROBABLY BE BETTER THEN THE FIRST THREE PRIZES .
ANY LANGUAGE THAT CAN BE USED, LOGO,ASSEMBLY,FORTH,BASIC, EXTENDED BASIC,c , P , G ,PILOT , SUPER FORTH , SST , ASPIC , PASCAL & etc. .
Did I miss any of them ? Any language that the computers can use, With or without any cartridge . (MINIMEM - TE-II - ADVENTURE - TUNNELS OF DOOM - SUPER CART). If I can't review them, I'll get help. The reviews will be in the newsletter. All entries will be reviewed and commented on and numbered .
No matter how large or small any program is, it will be entered . Any age is acceptable .

All entries will become property of the CHICAGO'S USERS GROUP LIBRARY .And will become part of the library .

Any and all entries will be mailed to me at my home or to THE CHICAGO USERS GROUP . To my attention . OR , If you wish ; I have a 1200 baud MODEM . VOICE first !

Send them in on DISK (S.S.S.D.) or TAPE . Or 1200 baud MODEM !
The CHICAGO'S TI99/4A USERS GROUP BBS PHONE NUMBER is 1-708-862-0182
MY COMPUTER phone number is 1-708-755-0051
That is in case that you want to modem your program in.

Now so that you can mail or bring it in ;
TONY ZLOTORZYNSKI
3607 WALLACE
STEGER,ILLINOIS
60475 U.S.A.

Alt . PROGRAMING CONTEST

OR

Chicago TI User's Group
P.O. Box 578341
Chicago,Ill. 60657 U.S.A.
#46
att ; PROGRAMING CONTEST

P.S. I think this is a chance for you to win a good mess of programs for yourself or for your USERS GROUP. OR THE MONEY !

Thanks all ! TONY ZLOTORZYNSKI #46 PROGRAMING CONTEST CHAIRMAN .

P.P.S. HUIXIA JIANG of TIANJIN,CHINA . I WANT A ENTRY FROM YOU TOO.
And being that this just might be the last NEWSLETTER before CHRISTMAS .
MERRY CHRISTMAS ALL YOU HACKERS . MAY ALL YOUR PROGRAMS WORK WELL

Editor's Notes..

Well, we seem to have made it through another year. I would like to thank all the authors that have submitted articles for publication in this newsletter. At the sake of being redundant, I must once again say that the authors of such fine articles make this newsletter what it is.
THANKS to all for your many hard hours and great articles. You really know how to make a guy look good.

On behalf of the Chicago TI User's Group, I'd like to thank John W. McDevitt of RAVE 99 (112 Rambling Rd. Vernon, Ct. 06066 203 871-7843).

Days before the FAIRE, I and all RAVE 99 customers received a letter from John. The letter stated that John would be partaking in the Chicago TI User's Group Faire at the Rolling Meadows Holiday Inn on 11/4/89.

Now if this wasn't positive advertising for Rave 99 and our FAIRE, I don't know what is.

Thanks for the plug Rave 99.

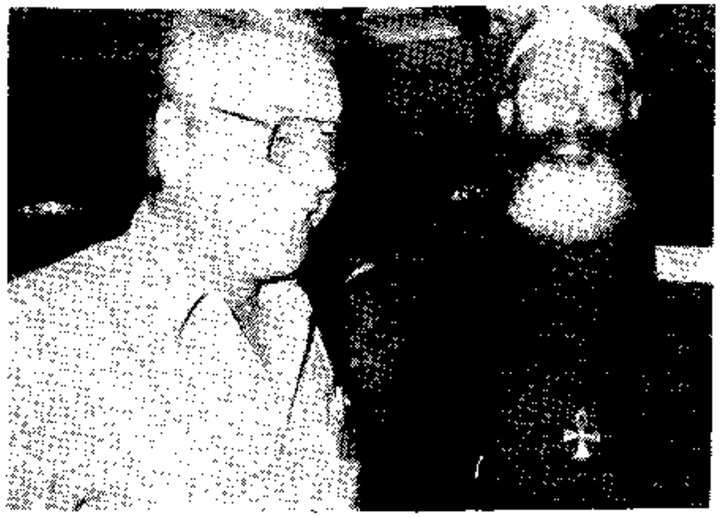
I hope you and all the vendors did well at our Faire. I know we'll see you and everyone else back again next year. Who knows, maybe a few new vendors will show up next year.

I wish EVERYONE a Blessed Holiday Season and a prosperous New Year.

GOD bless you all.

Bob Demeter

Editor



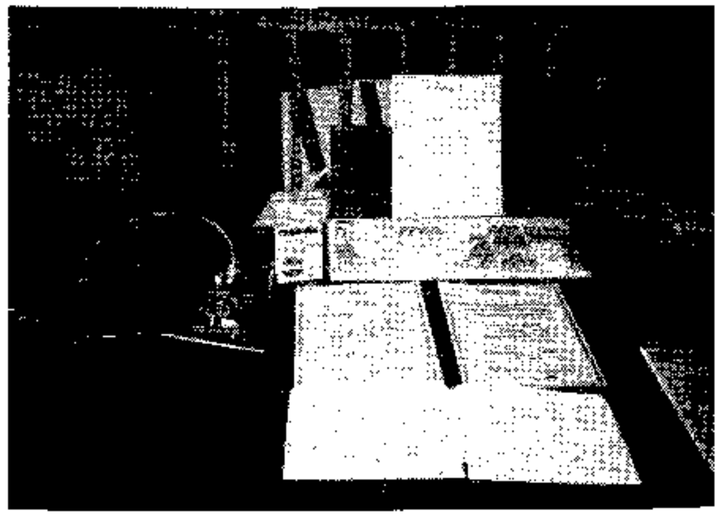
HANK ELLERMANN, DON JONES

GERD WEISSMANN, W.GERMANY

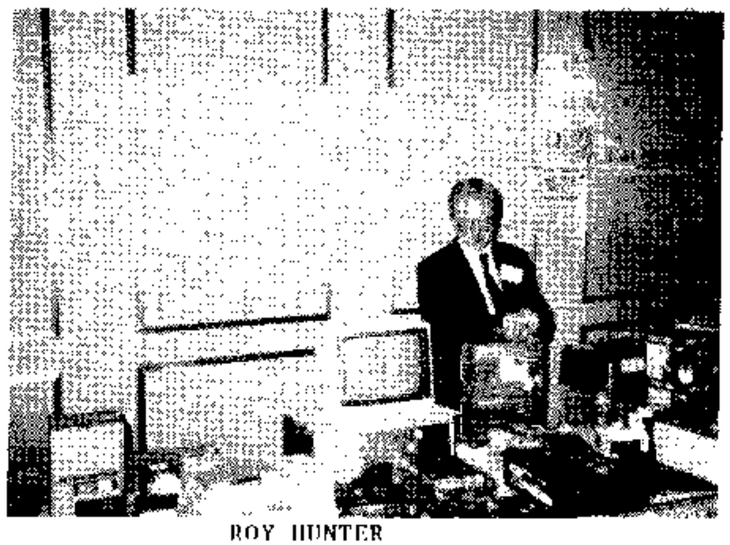
JOE PERNICK "TI ORPHAN"

HAL SHANAFIELD

MARCY BRUN
CO-CHAIRPERSON



RAVE 99

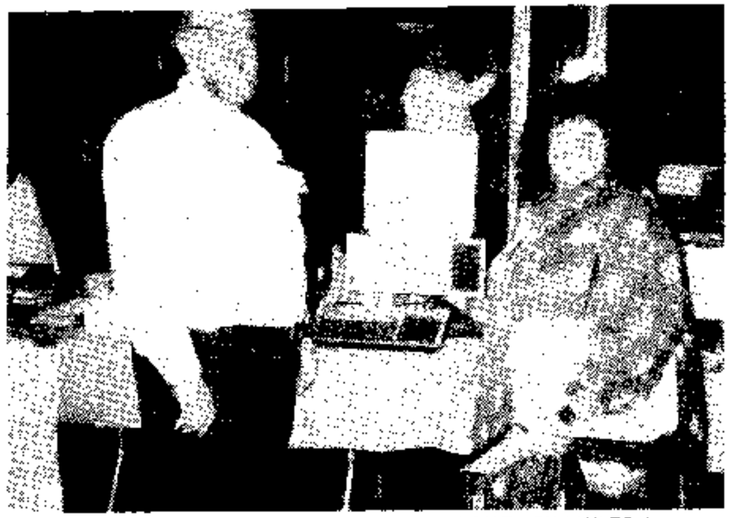


ROY HUNTER
HUNTER ELECTRONICS

ROGER MERRIT, ?
COMPRODINE

?, ?, ALBERT VISSER, BUD MILLS
NETHERLAND BUD MILLS SERVICES

CHRISS BOBBITT, KEN GILLILAND
ASGARD SOFTWARE



BRUCE HARRISON, HARRISON SOFTWARE

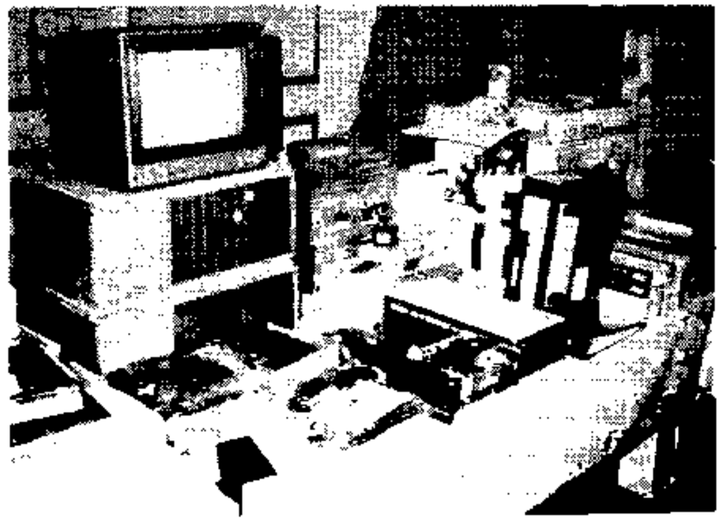
CHRISTINE CHAMBERS
CO-CHAIRPERSON

JON BARTELS, DANNY ZLOTORZYNSKI

GARY COX
MID SOUTH 99ER'S

PAUL CHARLTON
J.P. SOFTWARE

PETER HODDIE (CENTER)
J.P. SOFTWARE



The Eprommer Modification

By Jan Janowski

In order to modify Eprommer for optional operation on 12.5 V, let me describe the High Voltage regulation circuit. The 7805 regulator is a +5v regulator. You put in eight or so volts input, the regulator is referenced to ground, and the output is +5v regulated. Simple. If you want a higher regulated voltage (As long as you have a high enough source voltage!), and don't want to spend money of a second device at a different voltage, you could remove the ground reference, and re-connect it to a regulated reference voltage (Zener diode), and then the new regulated voltage would be +5v added to that reference voltage. So if you want 21V, you reference the "ground" terminal of the 7805 to +16V. 16 + 5 = 21 Volts. If you want 25V then: 20 + 5 = 25 Volts. If you want 12 Volts (As I did) you would then need to do the following: Reference = 12V - 5 = 7 Volt reference. I had a 6,8V 1 Watt Zener, and connected the Cathode (banded end) to the CENTER TERMINAL of the High Voltage 7805 Regulator (This is the one closest to the edge of the board), and connected the free end of the diode to the center lug of a Single Pole, Single Throw switch. Solder one end of the switch to ground (The outermost trace on the bottom of the board) no connection to the other switch lug, and that completes the circuit. NO TRACES NEED BE CUT! With the switch on the grounded side, you force 12V programming, IRREGARDLESS OF WHERE YOU SET THE SOFTWARE SWITCH. With the 12V switch NOT GROUNDED, the software switch controls the programming voltage (21 or 25 Volts).

How does it work? Like A Champ!

It just so happens that there is an unused plated through hole to the right of the external power connection, and this connects to the center terminal of the High Voltage 7805. This is the location that you connect the Cathode (banded end) of the 1 Watt Zener diode. I used a 1N4736, but any 6.8V 1 Watt device will work. You could use a 7.2 Volt 1 Watt Zener, too, as the real specification for 12V programming is 12.5V (As you no doubt have noticed by now). I used the 6.8V Zener, and the voltage measured at pin 20 a 2732A prom as it was programming was measured at 12.2 Volts. Give yourself some over-rating on this Zener. Do not use a 300 MW diode here. Rather than try to find a super miniature switch that others may have trouble finding, I used a small Single Pole, Single Throw switch that I Hot Melt Glued to the front of the Eprommer, in between the Prom ZIF socket, and the external power plug. I used heat shrink tubing to insulate the zener and connection wiring from all other components for safety. I have tried many 12.5V programmable Eproms and have had no problems whatsoever. This makes the Eprommer more worthwhile!

Different manufacturers have designed diferent Eproms to be programmed with different voltages. I wanted to give you some hard and fast rules on this, but from one manufacturer to another there is no cut and dried method as to which devices are 12v, which are 21V, and which are 25V. For this reason, I present here a list of manufacturers and Eprom types that I have personally checked with the manufacturers. One look at this

shows the confusion that reigns as to programming voltages. Some manufacturers could not provide me with the older Eprom's programming voltage information, because the parts are obsolete. So there are some Eproms listed on the following page that do not show a programming voltage. IF YOU ENCOUNTER A EPROM THAT DOES NOT APPEAR ON THIS LIST, I WOULD SUGGEST FIRST TRYING 12V, AND SEE IF IT PROGRAMMS. IF NOT, TRY 21V. AND ONLY TRY 25V IF IT SAYS IT IS STILL BLANK AFTER A 21V PROGRAMMING. I would suggest saving this page for reference.

EPROM TYPES AND PROGRAMMING VOLTAGES

Jan Janowski

	Advanced Micro Devices	Fujitsu	Hitachi	Intel	Motorola	Natl Semi.	NEC	Signetics	T.I.
2532	X	X	X	X	25V	25V	X	X	25V
2716	25V	X	X	25V	25V	25V	25V	X	25V
27C16	X	X	X	X	X	25V	X	X	X
2732	25V	25V	X	25V	25V	25V	25V	X	25V
2732A	X	21V	X	21V	25V	X	21V	X	21V
2732B	12.5V	X	X	X	25V	X	X	X	X
27C32	X	21V	X	X	X	25V	X	X	12.5V
2764	21V	21V	X	21V	25V	X	21V	X	21V
2764A	12.5V	X	X	12.5V	25V	X	X	X	X
27C64	12.5V	21V	21V	12.5V	X	12.5V	21V	12.5V	12.5V
27128	21V	21V	12.5V	21V	25V	X	21V	X	21V
27128A	12.5V	X	21V	12.5V	25V	X	X	X	12.5V
27C128	12.5V	21V	X	12.5V	X	12.5V	X	X	12.5V

One final warning: Do not use the wrong programming voltage on the proms, it could destroy them if you use too high a programming voltage!

FOUR-A/TALK

Random ramblings
about things TI.

by Bill Gaskill

November 1989

TRIVIA ROUNDUP

WHAT'S HOT:

JIM PETERSON'S PUBLIC DOMAIN SOFTWARE LIBRARY

-You may recall from previous Four-A/Talk columns that I ordered a host of disks from TigerCub out of the massive TI PUBLIC DOMAIN CATALOG they offer (a new one is also in the works). Well I am here to tell you that I now have some of the neatest non-commercial education and productivity software offered for the 99/4A. I honestly had no idea that so much was available. Jim Peterson has to have hundreds of hours invested in gathering and cataloging all of these programs. PLEASE show him some support by at least looking at the catalog. I am certain that you will find something in there that you can use. Honestly! Virtually any area of interest, from religious music to computing the number of square feet of carpet needed for a room is addressed. Each disk is only $1.50. You simply can't go wrong and if ever a 99er deserved support for the effort invested in a project useful to the entire community, this one is it!

DISCOVERIES:

-Asgard Software has begun manufacturing TI-99/4A modules. At present they produce only TYPEWRITER99 and TETRIS, but are looking for programmers who wish to have their assembly language coded material put into module form or who wish to write new applications for Asgard produced modules. If you are interested contact;

Asgard Software
P.O. Box 10306
Rockville, Md. 20849
(703)255-3085

-Mark Wacholtz of the St. Louis 99ers has just completed installation of his new T.I.Illinois-BELLeville PBBS. The system is based upon Travis Watford's Paradigm Bulletin Board software and supports 300/1200 baud. It is available 24 hours a day and may be logged onto by calling 618-233-1768.

HARD DISK USER TIPS:

-I guess this is info more than it is "tips", but here goes. I have just completed modifications to Christopher Flynn's Disk Card File program, and John Taylor's Checkbook/Budget Manager program so that they run from and write to a hard disk. Both programs are excellent productivity applications, of the highest quality. Flynn's DCF program came from Jim Peterson's Public Domain library, so I assume that it is now in the public domain. John Taylor's CBM is fairware.

CBM includes several neat utilities by K.D. Wenzel and myself to add new dimensions to an already great piece of software. If you would like a copy of either or both, you may download them from GEnie, obtain a copy from your club's library (if your club receives Four-A/Talk from me directly) or you may also get them from me (they will be delivered in ARC'd form). Send me an already initialized SS/SD disk, with mailer and return postage, and I will send them your way. The JET program is still fairware for John Taylor, not me. So your financial support needs to go to him.

Bill Gaskill
Box 2642
Grand Junction, Co.
81502

TRIVIA:

Did you know that;

-Dave Rose, author of the fantastic Character Sets and Grpahics Design series, that is still available through Texaments in Patchogue, New York, used to market other 99/4A products under the business name BRIGHT MICRO KOMPUTERS?

-The old TIGERCUB himself, Jim Peterson, lives on 156 Collingwood, in Columbus, Ohio and he also lives on 156 Collingwood in Whitehall, Ohio? Wish I knew what was going on there. I've sent orders for his software to both addresses and he gets them.

-At one time or another, there have been more that 30 text/word processors available for the 99/4A community to choose from. While TI-Writer is generally what comes to mind when we think of word processing on the 99/4A, that was not always the case. TI-Writer has really only been around since August of 1982. Although its official release was at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas in June, TI-Writer really didn't become widely available until later that summer.

Most of the pre-TI-Writer text or word processors were written in Extended Basic and lacked alot of the speed and power that we have come to expect in a word processing application since TI-Writer. The early

programs were still able to handle basic formatting and printed output of text though, and many did or still do a great job for light-duty uses.

Out of those that I have actually used, the best XB offering by far is Extended Software's TYPWRITER, written by Jim Schwaller and CIN-DAY Users Group founder Larry Morrow. It has more formatting capabilities than some of the assembly language word processors of today. Using symbols imbedded in the text, one could control font and mode choices in printed output and it even right-justfied. Overall, a pretty neat piece of programming for a 16K environment. No doubt some of the others such as TexTiger II and especially TexTiger III, were/are excellent pieces of software. I just haven't actually used them.

The assembly language power-houses in the group include TI-Writer and its clones BA-Writer, FunnelWeb, MY-Word and Word Master along with non-clones Companion, the Harrison Word Processor and WriterEase.

There may be more that I have overlooked, but here is the list;

AVERAGE BEAR WRITER	DataBiotics
BA-WRITER	Paolo Bagnaresi
COMPANION	INTELPRO
CONSOLE WRITER	Navarone Industries
DIRECT WRITER I and II	Dynamic Data and Devices
EASYWRITE (AKA TI-YPWRITER)	NSY Software
FUNNELWEB	Will and Tony McGovern
FUTURA WORD PROCESSOR	Ehninger and Associates
HEBREW TYPEWRITER	Micro-Melamed
LETTER WRITER	BizWare
LETTERIGHTER	IRON Software
MINI-EDITOR	Advanced Software
MINI-WRITER	Model Masters
MISSING LINK	Mid-West Engineering
PAGEWRIGHTER 99	VMC Software
R. ROY'S WORDMASTER	KCR Software
SUPERWRITER	Morning Star Software (CP/M card)
TEX T.A.L.	Vaughn Software
TEX-SCRIBE	David G. Brader
TEX-SCRIBER	Tex-Soft
TEX-WRITER	Soft-Tex
TEXTIGER II and III	Patio Pacific (Fred McCarty)
TEXTRIGHTER I	Arro-Soft Systems
TI-WRITER	Texas Instruments
TI PROCESSOR	TISOFT
TI WORD PROCESSOR	James D. Baker
TURTLE TEXT (LOGO program)	Roger B. Kirchner
TYPWRITER	Extended Software
W.O.R.D. WRITER	W.O.R.D.
WORD PROCESSOR	Harrison Software
WORD WRITER	Todd Kaplan
WORTEX	Amnion Software

-Along the same lines, how about spreadsheets for the 99/4A?

The first one produced for our computer that I am aware of was a progam called FREEFORM. It was offered by Texas Instruments to purchasers of the (then) new P-CODE system. FREEFORM appeared in May of 1982.

Phil Barnes authored the first 16K 99/4A compatible spreadsheet that I am aware of, producing 99-CALC in early 1983. It was a commercial piece of software that was advertised in some of the non-TI computer magazines for $20.

Other 99/4A spreadsheets that have been around at one time or another are listed below, along with those just mentioned.

99-CALC	Phil Barnes
CONSOLE CALC (aka TI-PLANNER)	DataBiotics (Galen Read)
COUNT-SIL	Systems Interface
DELPLAN (aka HOMEPLAN)	Bob Delpit
FREEFORM	Texas Instruments
HOMEPLAN (aka DELPLAN)	Bob Delpit
MINI-CALC	Advanced Software
MINI-PLAN	Complete Software
MITI-CALC	Milo Tsukroff
MULTIPLAN	MicroSoft Corp.
SNAP CALC	Gary Strauss
SPREADSHEET	Peter Chalamish
TI-99/4A CALC	Gregory Schmalhofer
TI CALC	Raymond J. Herrold
TI-MINI-CALC	Orion Software

and we can't forget the data base managers;

In this category the first non-PRK module data base of any significance appears to be the Data Base 300/500 programs offered as part of the IUG's Master 99 series. It was authored by XXXXXXXXXXXX and unfortunately emulated the PRK module in its limitations of field lengths and such. Data entry was incredibly slow as each keypress was acepted via a CALL KEY and then converted to the actual value for storage in the data string that was eventually saved to disk. Data Base 300 was so named because it could support 300 records per file. Data Base 500 followed suit as far as number of records per file.

Next on the scene was Western-Ware's Data Base X, which was a fair implementation of a flat file data base manager. But we really got down to business when Chuck Davis of Oak Tree Systems cranked out ACORN 99 in 1984. That was followed almost immediately by the Navarone Data Base Management System, which was a 100% assembly language setup that boasts the best report generator for a 99/4A DBMS to this day. Along with FirstBase, it also boasts the largest file sizes.

Here's the list that I have;

ACORN 99	Oak Tree Systems
Automatic Filer	Eastbench Software Products
Card File	Christopher Flynn
Card-Trix	Randy Thompson
Create-a-File	Arro-Soft Systems
Creative Filing System	Mark Beck
Data Base 1	SPC Software
Data Base 99	Quality 99 Software
Data Base 300/500	IUG Master 99 Series
Data Base X	Western-Ware
E-Files 99	VMC Software
Easy Data	Ayers Computer Products
FirstBase	Warren Agee
Flex-File II	TSS Software
Personal Pearl	Morning Star Software (CP/M cards only)
PR-BASE	William Warren
S-Files and S-Reports	Shepard Software
TI-BASE	Inscebot Inc.
Turbo Data Man	EasyWare

So that I don't seem to be favoring the productivity programs with too much emphasis, how about some games trivia?

Did you know that there are or were at least 12 different 99/4A adaptations of the popular FROGGER arcade game? Yep. Here they are, all of which tried to be a little different than the competition, but all of which still had some poor slimy little amphibian or other creature (humans are included) pitted against the evils of 20th century technology, trying to cross some traffic way, be it freeway, waterway or whatever.

E.T.	Texas Instruments
FREEWAY 2000	John B. Dorff
FREEWAY FROGS	Bit Byte Bit Software
FROG ROAD RACE	Basic Computer Sales Ltd.
FROGGER	Parker Brothers
FROGGERY	Best Software
FROGGIE	SoftCom Enterprises
FROGGY	Extended Software
FROGLEGS	Prometheus Software
FROGO (Logo adaptation)	Ted Barnicoat
HOMEBOUND	Khoa and Quyen Ton
SUPERFROG	Gem Software
TI-TOAD	Software Specialties

Yes, believe it or not, even the tired and worn out old E.T. got into the picture (well almost) when TI contracted to have an E.T. module done for the 99/4A. Of course it never made it to market thanks to the bailout, but the program is or was based upon the Frogger theme. The

only difference is that it's E.T. trying to cross the highway instead of a frog. The version that I have is written for some Scandanavian country also. I've not come across an English version yet.

Last but not least, there were the Q*BERT clones that had this weird litle egg with legs (or some other creature) jumping from platform to platform on a pyramid while trying to dodge all sorts of deadly threats;

CANDY BURT	TJ Software
CUBIC JUMPER	D. Krols
CUBIT	Bill Gronos
KU-BERT	D. Walker
PEW-BERT	D. Siddons
Q*BERT	LaFortuna
Q*BERT	Parker Brothers
Qbono	M. Curtis
QUBE*BERT	Arcade Design
QUIMBEE	Dynamic Data and Devices
R`BERT	D.D. Reed
TI-BERT	author unknown
TOPPER	Texas Instruments
Z-BURT	TexWare Associates

Topper was actually a rabbit doing the dodging, but the basic theme of the program was similar.

THIS MONTH IN TI-99 HISTORY:

<1981>

Joe Nichols, a pioneering member of the Washington, D.C. 99ers, and influential force behind the formation of the IUG by Charles LaFara, dies on the 28th.

<1982>

Texas Instruments acquires exclusive rights to distribute the TI COUNT line of accounting software for the 99/4A.

-TI opens up a toll free hotline for prospective customers to find out where to purchase 99/4A products or to order them by mail.

-Rumors of a TI-99 version of the Forth programming language begin to surface.

-Myarc Inc., East Hanover, NJ., advertises to get "beta testers" for its new winchester disk and controller system for the 99/4A.

-Hi-Fi Exchange, Northampton, Ma., name is changed to Moonbeam Software.

-Denali Data, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, introduces a "Data Backer Bus" that allows placement of the (stand-alone) peripheral boxes behind the console instead of having to place them all to the right of it.

-99er Magazine goes monthly.

-CORTEX, a kit-form computer using the 9995 cpu and 9929 vdp chips appears in Electronics Today magazine. It is said to come with "TI Power Basic".

-Cheryl Whitelaw, aka, Regena, makes it into the 99er Hall of Fame by getting to the 43rd screen on Munchman with the score of 178,950.

-Englands's most familiar 99er, Steven Shaw, makes it into the 99er Magazine Hall of Fame with a score of 10,028,010 points in Pinball.

-99er ON-DISK debuts.

-Rumor of an E.T. game module for the 99/4A are mentioned in the newsletter of the IUG.

<1983>

Development and introduction of the 99/8 computer is cancelled completely as TI decides to pull out of the Home Computer market. About 250 99/8's are actually produced.

-Bill Cosby is out as the advertising personality for the 99/4A.

-Photo and article on the Racal-Vadic modem appear in Compute! This is one of the early 99/4A compatible modems.

-PLATO COURSEWARE for the TI-99 debuts.

-Racal-Vadic acoustic modem, a TI-99/4A compatible peripheral, is released.

<1984>

Corcomp Inc. files for bankruptcy.

-"33 Programs for the TI-99/4A" book by Brian Flynn released by Compute! Books.

-"Innermost Secrets of the TI-99/4A" book by Computer Shopper columnist Randy Holcomb is released for $5.95.

<1985>

Millers Graphics begins taking orders for the first GRAM KRACKERS.

-Myarc announces plans to produce an upgrade computer for the 99/4A. A

box that did not work was shown at the Chicago TI-Faire. It included a keyboard built into the console like the 4/A, a cartridge slot on the top of the console, 10 function keys across the top of the keyboard, a ten-keypad and was announced to be 256K minimum RAM configuration.

<1986>

MICROpendium magazine receives an award from the Front Range 99er Computer Club of Colorado Springs, Colorado for its continued support of the TI Community.

<1987>

Rave introduces speech synthesizer on a card for the PE box.

-Mike Dodd's PC-TRANSFER is released to the 99/4A Community.

-Avanti 99 Forth card for the PE box is announced by McCann Software. The beta version is shown at the Chicago Faire.

Miller Communications of Seattle, Washington develops an IBM-like box to hold the Geneve and TI peripheral cards.

-Graphics Expander, by J. Peter Hoddie, debuts at the Chicago TI Faire.

-Ryte Data releases Super Clock Support

-A newsletter for users of TI's CC-40, and the TI74 and 95 calculators debuts.

-Last hardcopy print of "Tips From the TigerCub" is mailed out.

<1988>

MICROpendium receives an award from from the Ottawa TI-99/4 Users Group for the support MICROpendium has given the TI Community since 1984. The award is is presented to John Kolean by Ottawa UG member Jane LaFlamme.

-Tom Freeman and Jim Lohmeyer, T and J Software, announce the release of their DisKassembler program for the Geneve.

-DataBiotics announces plan to create a grom port add-on board for the 99/4A.

-PRESS word processor from Asgard fails to make its debut at Chicago Faire.

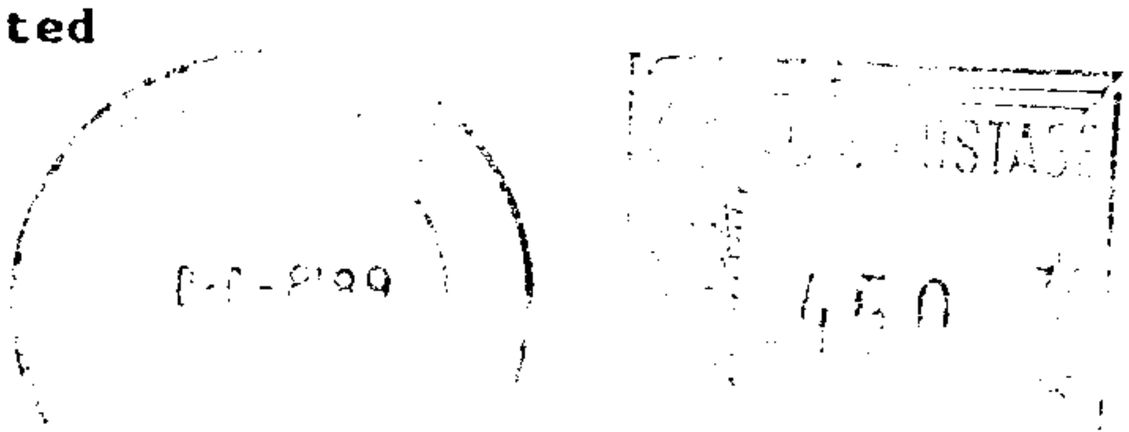
-Genial Computerware announces Picture Transfer for the 9640.

Until next time...

Chicago TI User's Group
P.O. Box 578341
Chicago, Il. 60657

First Class Mail

Address Correction Requested



Editor's Notes...

Let me start off by thanking GARY COX and TONY ZLOTORZYNSKI for all the GREAT pictures of the FAIRE they sent me. I can't believe how many pictures showed up at my door the week after the FAIRE. You 2 guys must have an in with Kodak or something. I can't believe how fast you got these developed. I'm gonna stop sending mine to Japan.

Photos of the FAIRE courtesy Tony Zlotorzynski Gary Cox

I, like all, had a great time at this years FAIRE. For the first time in 4 or 5 years I had a chance to actually SEE the FAIRE. I even attended my first 2 seminars since joining the group. The show was GREAT. I looked for anything I could find as far as Desk Top Publishing. I was able to get some nice graphics. Check out the front cover and see.

Don't forget the Dec. swap meet. Bring money and things to sell. Bring educational cartridges too. I need some for the kids.

New meeting place next month. More details and hopefully a map in the next newsletter. -bd